**Video Blogging Permission Letter**

**Dear Families**

From now to the end of the year, Mr. Mourtacos’ class will be taking part in a program designed to increase students’ technological literacy by researching and analyzing uses of technology in society. Students will explore how and why technologies are developed and deployed in our society as well as describe their benefits and consequences. The students will be placing short videos on a personal blog in order to share their findings and opinions.

A blog is a special type of web page that can be created and updated using a web browser. Each new entry has a date stamp and a comments section. Visitors to the blog can post comments to the author.

**How it works**

Every other week, students will research a current or developing technology. They will attempt to answer how and why the technology is being created and how it will be used. This analysis is a crucial part of being technologically literate. Being able to understand the shaping society has on technology and use of technology on society is a vital skill to safely live in a world that has exponential technology growth. Students will also reflect on the benefits and consequences of using the technology they research.

Once their research is completed, students will write a script and design a video to be displayed on their blog. This process helps to improve student writing and planning skills. Once placed on the blog, other students will be able to view and comment. We are encouraging students from other classes, grades, schools, as well as parents to view the videos and place comments. The dissemination of this information and diverse discussion are two goals of the project.

**Security**

This video blogging project is designed to minimize risk to your child. No student will be required to reveal any personal information in their videos. Additionally, no student will be allowed to include personal information about another student without that student’s permission. The videos do not even have to contain the image of your child. The video can contain other persons, video clips, audio and music, and images with narration. There will also be no mention of our school name or location in the video blogs. Please be sure to indicate at the end of this permission letter if your child is allowed to include video and/ or images of themselves in their videos. All comments to the blog will be sent to the author for moderation prior to appearing publically on the blog. This will serve to eliminate inappropriate content on your child’s blog. Nothing that is not approved by your child will be displayed.

**Assessment**

The bimonthly video blog will be part of their technology education grade this term. Students will receive a scoring rubric that explains the expectations for these assignments. The rubric will include a section for the comments they leave on other students’ video blogs. The rubric is available for you to view at the course web page in Moodle.

**Permission**

Before your child may start posting to their blog, we are asking for you and your child to discuss and sign the following form. Please return the form to Mr. Mourtacos.

**Blogging Terms and Conditions**

1. Students using blogs are expected to act safely by keeping personal information out of their posts. You agree not to post or give out your family name, password, username, e-mail address, home address, school name, city, country, or other information that could help someone locate or contact you or another student in person. You may share you interests, ideas, preferences, and opinions on technology.
2. Students using blogs agree not to share their username or password with anyone besides their teachers and parents. You agree to never log in as another student.
3. Students using blog space are expected to treat it as classroom space. All speech and content that is deemed inappropriate in the classroom is likewise considered inappropriate on the blog space.
4. Student blogs are meant to be a forum for student expression; however, they are to be primarily considered a tool for learning. Students using the blog space agree to stay on topic with their posts.
5. Student blogs are to be a vehicle for sharing student productions and information concerning the relationship of society and technology. Most visitors will leave respectable comments and helpful messages. If you receive a comment that makes you feel uncomfortable or is not respectable, tell your teacher right away. Do not approve the comment to be publically displayed on your blog, and do not respond to the comment.
6. Students using computers may not download and/ or install software and agree not to click on ads or competitions without permission.
7. Students who do not abide by these terms and conditions may lose their opportunity to take part in this project.

I have read and understood these video blogging terms and conditions. I agree to uphold them.

Student’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s/ guardian’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent, initial here if student is allowed to post videos with their likeness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_